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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,946	10/31/2003	Kazuo Okada	SHO-0020	8922

23353 7590 06/07/2007

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EXAMINER	
DUFFY, DAVID W	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3714	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
06/07/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/697,946	OKADA, KAZUO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	David W. Duffy	3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *07 May 2007*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-18* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-18* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *05/07/2007* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *05/07/2007*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed May 7, 2007 in which the applicant amends claims 1-4 and adds claims 5-18. Claims 1-18 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeuchi et al. (US 6086066) in view of Yamamoto et al. (US 6118420) and Okada (US 4889339).

4. In regards to claims 1 and 5, Takeuchi discloses a variable display means (fig 1, the three reels), a second display device in front of the variable means (fig 1, element 16), input device to allow a bet command (2:49-54), controller that controls the display devices to provide a game (inherent as something must control the machine in order for it to operate), where the second display moves relative to the first (figs 3 and 5). Takeuchi seems to lack explicitly stating that the second display is electrically able to display various images.

5. In related prior art, Yamamoto discloses a transparent liquid crystal display that allows the superimposing of images over background images (1:24-57) with a light source disposed on the bottom (fig 1, element 102).

6. One skilled in the art would recognize the advantage of using the transparent display of Yamamoto with the system of Takeuchi as the resultant system would allow for the surprise and enhanced amusement of the player as already provided for in Takeuchi while further enhancing the abilities of the system to vary the overlaid image which allows for more image variety as evidenced by Loose et al. (US 6517433). The combination made is still seemingly lacking a reel stop control.

7. In related prior art, Okada discloses that reel stop buttons allow a player to make use of his or her intuition and technique to enhance their enjoyment of the game (1:18-29). One skilled in the art would recognize the advantages of increasing player enjoyment in a game system that is profitable only when played.

8. Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time to incorporate reel stop controls to the combination made above to increase player interest and subsequently owner profits.

9. In regards to claims 2 and 3, Takeuchi discloses the second display moving back and forth and up and down relative to the first display (fig 3).

10. In regards to claim 4, Takeuchi discloses moving the second display in and out of the field of view (fig 3).

11. In regards to claim 6, Takeuchi discloses reels with a common axis of rotation (fig 1).

12. In regards to claim 7, Takeuchi discloses reels and that the second display can rotate on the same axis as the reels (figs 1 and 3).

13. In regards to claim 8, Takeuchi discloses a support body fitted into the rotation shaft, supporting the second display (figs 1 and 5, element 18) and an actuator to rotate the support body about the rotation shaft (5:23-35).

14. In regards to claim 9, the combination made discloses the system as detailed for claim 10 above. The combination made seems to be lacking a shroud to direct the lighting. However, examiner takes OFFICIAL NOTICE that shrouds to direct light are notoriously well known in the art of lighting and would have been an obvious modification to make to provide adequate illumination of the system.

15. Claims 10-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeuchi et al. (US 6086066) in view of Yamamoto et al. (US 6118420).

16. In regards to claims 10, 14, Takeuchi discloses a variable display means (fig 1, the three reels), a second display device in front of the variable means (fig 1, element 16), input device to allow a bet command (2:49-54), controller that controls the display devices to provide a game (inherent as something must control the machine in order for it to operate), where the second display moves relative to the first (figs 3 and 5). Takeuchi seems to lack explicitly stating that the second display is electrically able to display various images.

17. In related prior art, Yamamoto discloses a transparent liquid crystal display that allows the superimposing of images over background images (1:24-57) with a light source disposed on the bottom (fig 1, element 102).

18. One skilled in the art would recognize the advantage of using the transparent display of Yamamoto with the system of Takeuchi as the resultant system would allow

for the surprise and enhanced amusement of the player as already provided for in Takeuchi while further enhancing the abilities of the system to vary the overlaid image which allows for more image variety as evidenced by Loose et al. (US 6517433). In regards to claims 11 and 12, Takeuchi discloses the second display moving back and forth and up and down relative to the first display (fig 3).

19. In regards to claim 13, Takeuchi discloses moving the second display in and out of the field of view (fig 3).

20. In regards to claim 15, Takeuchi discloses reels with a common axis of rotation (fig 1).

21. In regards to claim 16, Takeuchi discloses reels and that the second display can rotate on the same axis as the reels (figs 1 and 3).

22. In regards to claim 17, Takeuchi discloses a support body fitted into the rotation shaft, supporting the second display (figs 1 and 5, element 18) and an actuator to rotate the support body about the rotation shaft (5:23-35).

23. In regards to claim 18, the combination made discloses the system as detailed for claim 10 above. The combination made seems to be lacking a shroud to direct the lighting. However, examiner takes OFFICIAL NOTICE that shrouds to direct light are notoriously well known in the art of lighting and would have been an obvious modification to make to provide adequate illumination of the system.

Response to Arguments

24. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

25. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

26. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US 6339418 to Kitagawa and US 5146354 to Plesinger disclose side lit TFT LCD displays with shrouding.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Applicant is duly reminded that a complete response must satisfy the requirements of 37 C.F. R. 1.111, including: "The reply must present arguments pointing out the specific distinctions believed to render the claims, including any newly presented claims, patentable over any applied references. A general allegation that the claims "define a patentable invention" without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references does not comply with the

requirements of this section. Moreover, "The prompt development of a clear Issue requires that the replies of the applicant meet the objections to and rejections of the claims." Applicant should also specifically point out the support for any amendments made to the disclosure. See MPEP 2163.06 II(A), MPEP 2163.06 and MPEP 714.02. The "disclosure" includes the claims, the specification and the drawings.

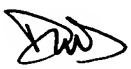
Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David W. Duffy whose telephone number is (571) 272-1574. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 0800-1630.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert E. Pezzuto can be reached on (571) 272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DWD



Ronald Laneau

RONALD LANEAU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

5/28/07